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## PROTESTS PARALYSE DHAKA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters in Dhaka city faced severe traffic congestion yesterday as various protests across multiple locations caused widespread gridlock.

Key roads including Dhanmondi, Mirpur Road, Khamarbari Road, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Uttara, Press Club, and Science Lab were heavily affected, leaving many stranded for hours.

The traffic chaos was primarily attributed to demonstrations by students, various organisations, and service holders, coupled with the reopening of educational institutions after a prolonged closure.

Anisur Rahman, a private job holder from Farmgate, said his usual 15-minute commute from Dhanmondi to his office took 45 minutes by motorcycle due to the congestion.

Abdullah, a trader from Karwan Bazar, struggled to find transportation and was unable to secure a ride sharing service, as drivers informed him it would take over an hour to reach him.

Protests at multiple locations added to the turmoil. Students blocked the Science Lab intersection and Uttara BNS centre, demanding the cancellation of the HSC examination.

Simultaneously, students of Home Economics College obstructed Mirpur Road near New Market, protesting for dormitory accommodations.

In front of Jamuna, near the residence of the interim government's chief adviser, women from the "Tohya

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Various groups formed human chains and held rallies across key locations, causing severe traffic congestion throughout the city yesterday. Protests by students, various organisations, and service holders blocked major roads in Dhanmondi, Science Lab, and Uttara, leaving commuters stranded for hours. The chaos was exacerbated by the reopening of educational institutions, intensifying gridlock throughout the city.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Case against former CJ Khairul dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday summarily dismissed a case against the former chief justice and recently resigned Law Commission chairman ABM Khairul Haque on charges of fraud and altering the judgement that annulled the 13th amendment concerning the caretaker government, hours after filing of it.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dilruba Afroze Tithi passed the order finding no cogent grounds to take cognizance of the charges brought against Khairul.

Earlier in the day, Md Imrul Hasan, a lawyer of Dhaka Bar Association, filed the case against Khairul, a staffer of the court told The Daily Star.

In his complaint, Imrul SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Tribute to a fallen friend

How classmates remembered Ahnaf,  
a 17-year-old killed in police firing

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Among the neatly arranged benches, one seat remained empty.

In place of a student, there was a bouquet of flowers and a white paper bearing the name, "Shafiq Uddin Ahmed Ahnaf".

Just a little over a month ago, Ahnaf, a student of BAF Shaheen College, gave exams in this very seat. Shortly after, the government ordered closure of educational institutions as protests against attacks on quota reform protesters intensified.

Yesterday, the college finally reopened its doors, and Ahnaf's friends resumed their first-year final examination. But



**The sight of his empty seat, adorned with flowers, was a form of tribute from his friends and teachers, and was also a reminder of the human costs that contributed to Sheikh Hasina's fall.**

Ahnaf did not return. He won't ever, just like many other students killed by law

enforcers' bullets.

The 17-year-old was shot dead when police opened fire on anti-government protesters in the capital's Mirpur-10 area on August 4.

He had already completed three of his exams when the violence erupted and led to the suspension of the remaining tests.

Yesterday, as his friends returned to take their final exam in accounting, Ahnaf's absence was felt deeply.

The sight of his empty seat, adorned with flowers, was a form of tribute from his friends and teachers, and was also a reminder of the human costs that contributed to Sheikh Hasina's fall.

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## Iron cages being removed from all courtrooms

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The Public Works Department (PWD) has initiated the removal of iron cages from courtrooms nationwide, following directives from higher authorities.

As of Friday, at least five iron cages have been dismantled, according to PWD officials.

An executive engineer of PWD, confirmed that they received verbal instructions on Thursday to start removing the iron cages from courtrooms.

ASM Sanaullah, executive engineer of PWD's Dhaka division-2, said, "Five iron cages have been removed from courtrooms in Dhaka since Friday."

The decision to remove the cages was made on Wednesday, according to Md Baki Ullah, another executive engineer of PWD.

The move follows widespread criticism after images of former law minister Anisul Huq and PM's

private industry affairs adviser Salman F Rahman, both arrested in a murder case, went viral on social media, showing them in an iron cage at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

On Thursday, former deputy speaker Shamsul Haque Tuku, state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, and Chhatra League General Secretary Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, also arrested in a murder case, were produced before the CMM Court.

They were not confined to an iron cage.

By Friday, two iron cages had already been removed from courtrooms at the CMM Court.

On the same day, former army officer Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan, arrested in a murder case, was produced in a courtroom where the iron cage had already been removed.

"There are still 26 iron cages in courtrooms under the CMM Court," said Md Rejowan Khondoker, nazir of the CMM

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## Dhaka residents demand arrest of Taqsem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some residents of Dhaka yesterday demanded that the authorities concerned immediately arrest Taqsem A Khan, former managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, and ensure his punishment.



"If Taqsem is not immediately arrested and a case is not filed against him, he will use his influence and power to destroy the evidence of his corruption and misdeeds over the years, and may flee abroad at any time," said Mizanur Rahman, a resident of Dhaka's Jurain area.

He made the demand at a human chain in front of Wasa Bhaban in Karwan Bazar.

Mizanur was among several hundred residents from Jurain, Shyampur, Madhya Badda, Rampura and Tejgaon areas who earlier demonstrated in front of the Wasa Bhaban on April 23, 2019 demanding Taqsem's resignation.

The image of Mizanur carrying a jug full of dirty

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সঞ্চয় হবে বাংলাদেশে

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অফশোর ব্যাংকিং দিচ্ছে

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